



World's Largest Things, Inc.

Post Office Box 101
Lucas Kansas
67648

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lucas, Kansas
Permit # 4

www.WorldsLargestThings.com

WHAT'S THE

BIG IDEA

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

JUNE 2007

Spring 2007 ushered in a new era here at World's Largest Things headquarters - the paperwork is in, the long wait is over, and the wonderful people at the Internal Revenue Service have granted W.L.T., Inc. non-profit status. So, HERE WE GO!

Early members will notice a change... "Next Exit" served as the official newsletter of the **World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things** Traveling Roadside Attraction & Museum for four years, keeping friends, fans, and members current. "Next Exit" will remain a part of the "Big Idea" as a special section on the back page, dedicated to Mobile Museum news.

The rest of the "Big Idea" will feature news and noteworthy events in the World of World's Largest, Calls for Action, WLT, Inc. activities and project updates, and member World's Largest Things sighting. We hope you like the updates, and let us know what you've seen along the road!

THANK YOU for your continued support.

-Erika Nelson, Director

BIG WELL HELP

Historic World's Largest Thing will come back... You can Help!



You've all seen the pictures of the devastation wrought by Greensburg Kansas' F5 Tornado of May 4, 2007. In addition to businesses, residences, and livelihoods that need to be re-built, one of Kansas' oldest tourist attractions is in need, too.

The story of the World's Largest Hand-Dug Well began in the 1880s when both the Santa Fe and Rock Island railroads were laying tracks across the plains of Kansas. A large supply of water was needed for the steam locomotives and for the people of the area. When the well was completed in 1887, it was 109 feet deep and 32 feet in diameter. The well was covered and opened as an historic attraction in 1937.

In 1972, the United States Government designated the Big Well as a National Museum and in February of 1974 it was awarded an American Water Landmark by the American Water Works Association. Over three million visitors from every state in the nation and many foreign countries have descended the metal stairway into the cavern of the World's Largest Hand Dug Well. Now, the only thing that remains is the Well itself.

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NEXT EXIT

World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things
Traveling Roadside Attraction And Museum Updates

The original World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things Traveling Roadside Attraction and Museum is retiring! But, before it's decommissioned, there is one more scheduled stop:

Sabatini Gallery, July 27 and 28, at the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library.

You'll still be able to see the Mobile Museum at World's Largest Things, Inc. headquarters in Lucas, KS (always open when parked!).

Or, tune in to Dish Network's GalleryHD program ARTLAND: USA. Season 2 Episode 4 airing Oct. 25th 2007.

Other print, television, and film appearances listed online:

www.WorldsLargestThings.com

NEW MOBILE MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT Budget and Goals Set for Gerstenslager Grantwriting and Fundraising



In a recent Topeka Capital Journal article, a timeline for the new Mobile Museum project was revealed. In 2009, we'll launch the NEW IMPROVED WLCoWSVoWLT touring vehicle. Proposed development budget is

\$42,000 for vehicle mechanics, updates, exterior graphics, and interior displays. Half of all new membership dues go directly into the Greenbacks for Gerstenslager fund, with grants, monetary and in-kind donations, and fundraisers to reach the final goal.

Your support is greatly appreciated in our new museum project.

Become a Member today and help us grow - or, contribute directly to the Greenbacks for Gerstenslager fund! Details on Page Two.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WORLD'S LARGEST THINGS, INCORPORATED

World's Largest Things, Inc., is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, established to research, collect, and disseminate information relating to the history, preservation, production, and promotion of Roadside Vernacular Architecture known as World's Largest Things.

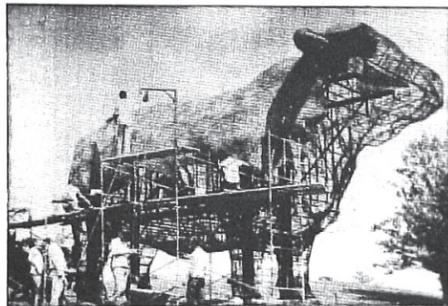
Headquarters 226 Kansas Avenue, Lucas Kansas, 67648.

www.WorldsLargestThings.com

NEWEST NEWS

Word about World's Largest Things is spreading, thanks to the **Kansas Humanities Council**

As a part of their 2007 - 2009 Speakers Bureau roster, World's Largest Things director Erika Nelson is spreading the word about roadside vernacular architecture to numerous diverse groups across the State of Kansas. Dovetailing nicely with the state's new slogan "As Big as you Think", lectures look at the history of roadside attractions and the communities that build these monumental civic projects.



The Building of "Albert the Bull", Audubon Iowa

Fast-paced and informative, these slide and PowerPoint presentations will inspire you to think outside the box in finding the 'Thing' that represents your community, as well as ways to tell your story in a big way.

Book a program online at: www.kansashumanities.org/programs/speakers_bureau/speakers.html

or contact **Deborah Pomeroy**
KHC Resource Center Coordinator
deborah@kansashumanities.org
(785) 357-0359

BECOME A MEMBER

Your membership supports numerous activities, including:
"Weekly What's Large Where" Production and Distribution, syndicated column for small run print newspapers & W.L.T. members

www.WorldsLargestThings.com
Development and Maintenance (now 268 pages strong!)

Museum Aquisition & Display Development

Outreach and Educational Activities

BECOME A MEMBER, and you'll be supporting the appreciation and preservation of roadside attractions across the country. All members will receive the Official Newsletter "Big Idea", prestigious membership card, email edition of Weekly What's Large Where, and notification of events via post and email. Depending on your level of membership, you'll get bonus goodies, too...

Badger \$25

Otter \$50

Pheasant \$100

Muskie \$250

Bull \$500

Buffalo \$1000

Bigger than a Buffalo?

Ask about corporate sponsorship at the

Meta Level!

Current campaign:

Greenbacks for Gerstenslager

Help Build a New Mobile Museum!

Send your name, mailing address, email, and hard-earned check or money order to:

World's Largest Things, Inc.

PO Box 101

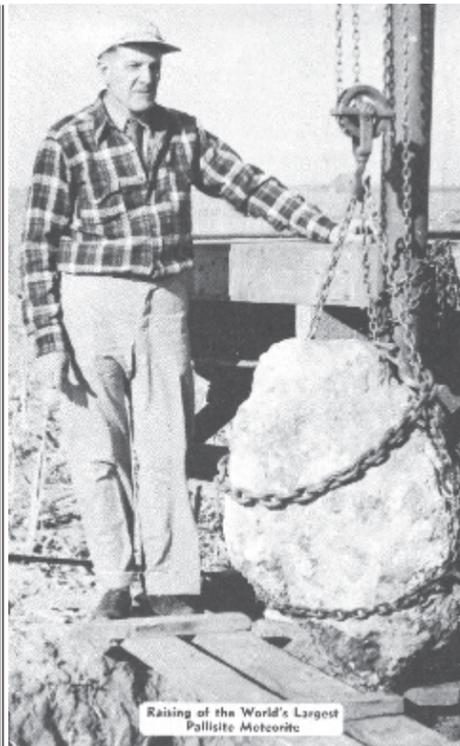
Lucas KS 67648

or join online:

www.WorldsLargestThings.com/becomeamember.htm

WE ACCEPT PAYPAL!

BIG WELL CONT.



Historic 1950s postcards show the importance of the Big Well and associated World's Largest Pallasite Meteorite in Greensburg's history

The Big Well Museum folks need your help and support to rebuild the well. The Big Well gift shop and museum are gone, and the watertower has crumpled atop the debris. The folks of Greensburg Kansas are resilient, steadfast, and WILL rebuild.

Cleanup efforts are underway, and there's a handy-dandy website that will keep you posted as to help and supplies needed, as well as donation instructions to aid the effort.

PLEASE take a look at www.BigWellHelp.org to see what you can do... Let's Bring Back the Well!

WLT, INC.

Board of Directors

Erika Nelson, Director
Creator and Curator of the World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things Traveling Roadside Attraction and Museum

Don Robertson, Veep
Tour Production

Anne Rohan, Secretary
Tourism Specialist

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World's Largest Catsup Bottle Preservation and Promotion

Nancy Jo Leachman
Research and Reference

Joshua Porter
Monumental Fiberglass and Structural Engineering

Zippy the Pinhead
Metaphysical Musings

Unpaid Staff

Rachel Wilson
Web and Tech Support

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND OLD MEMBERS

These fine folks kept the Mobile Museum on the road, earning their Badger, Holstein, Otter, Pheasant, Muskie, and Meta status before the benefit of a tax deduction. Thank You! You will always be the Biggest of the Big...

Badgers

- Eric Davis
- David Fisk
- Ida Foreman
- Michael Berg
- Robert Lundbom
- Carla Prael
- Jan Elftmann
- Ayn Morgan
- Kim Evans Sharp
- Joseph Donowho
- Joe and Judy Gasper
- Anthony and Rachel Gasper
- Dolores Cleveland
- Tina Emery
- Barbara Sibayan
- Mike Gassmann
- Elizabeth James
- Ed Biser
- Kelly Ludwig
- Mike Murphy
- Rare Visions and Roadside Revelations
- ☆ Rosslyn Schultz
- Don and Shirley Moore
- Deb Bloemker
- Gregg Olson
- Pam Grout
- Julie Mulvihill
- ☆ Abner Perney
- ☆ Kim Roberts
- ☆ Ellen Morgan

Holsteins

- Gary King
- Mike Wild
- Larry Harris
- Tim Klein
- Lisa Stone
- Marci Penner
- Joseph E. Hubbard
- Randall Szott
- ☆ T. Martin Scally

Otters

- Marion Blake
- Sappington Family
- Joy Oesterly and Gary Penny
- Michelle Reis
- ☆ Nancy Jo Leachman
- ☆ Chris Scally
- ☆ Gerald Thompson
- ☆ Luke McGuff
- ☆ Adam Perney
- ☆ Janice Araniecke
- ☆ Eileen Robertson

Pheasants

- Bob Gasper
- ☆ Gary Cleveland
- Rev. W. Brown
- ☆ Sonja Nelson

Muskies

- Steve Liggett

Metas

- ☆ By George
- ☆ Don Robertson
- ☆ Clarice and Dwight Nelson

☆ INDICATES '07 NEW OR RENEWING MEMBER

WORLD'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF THE WORLD'S SMALLEST VERSIONS OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST THINGS TIMELINE

<p>1975 exposed to Paul and Babe</p> <p>1978 moved to town near 8-Ball watertower</p>	<p>1999 had epiphany while at W.L. Ball of Twine Cawker City KS</p> <p>2000 made first World's Smallest Version while teaching @ KU</p>	<p>2001 moved into a bus to explore the American Roadside</p> <p>2002 camped in desert over-winter, painted bus into WLCgWSVoWLT Traveling Roadside Attraction and Museum</p>	<p>2003 Texas Minn. OK & IL tours</p> <p>1/2004 WLTThings T-Shirt</p>	<p>6/2004 NorthWest tour to NE, WY, ID, MT, OR, & WA</p>	<p>9/2004 featured in Ripley's syndicated cartoon</p>	<p>2005 started writing Weekly What's Large Where</p>	<p>3/2005 Eastern Tour to MO, IL, IN, OH, PA, DE, NJ, MA</p>	<p>7/2005 Catsup Bottle Birthday Bash! Collinsville IL</p>	<p>8/2005 featured in Zippy the Pinhead syndicated cartoon</p>	<p>2/2006 Kentucky Tour & Am. University lecture Wash. D.C.</p>	<p>7/2006 met Weinermobile while at W.L. Bottle of Catsup Collinsville IL</p>	<p>11/2006 finished W.L. Souvenir Travel Plate, Lucas KS</p>	<p>2007 Now Non-Profit Expansions in the works...</p>
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